

WASHINGTON, D.C. , Today, Congressman John W. Olver (D-1st District) released the following statements regarding the President's State of the Union messages:

Budget

“Equally important to reducing our deficit is the manner in which we go about doing it. We must make intelligent, targeted cuts in order to preserve the programs that work, while reducing or eliminating those that don’t. I am eager to see how both the House Republican leadership and President Obama proceed with regarding cutting spending and growing jobs at the same time. Jobs and the economy have to continue to be our top priority.”

Job Creation and “Winning the Future”/Global Competition

“There is no doubt that today’s economy is better than the one President Obama inherited. An economy that was shrinking is growing again, and, instead of rapid job loss, we’re finally at least headed in the right direction.”

“That said, we must keep the private sector hiring. Economists estimate we need over 150,000 new jobs each month just to keep a steady employment base, so we must pursue growth strategies like across-the-board infrastructure development and educational investments to ensure that we will have enough new jobs coming online long-term. It will take a multi-year strategy to undo the damage to our economy and job market, and I agree with the President that it will be American innovation that pulls us through. So repairing our rails, roads and bridges and investing in science, technology and energy are key pieces to the overall puzzle.”

Political Discourse

“The events in Tucson earlier this month serve as a strong reminder that we must all work to communicate about our political differences in ways that are civil and thoughtful and that promote aspiration to those qualities in all who hear or read our words.”